

for it. When the Senate approved it this past weekend, only three Republicans there voted for it.

For months now, economists from across the political spectrum have warned Congress and the President that we had to act in a bold and swift manner to rescue the economy. The economy, they said, was literally shutting down.

The housing and banking crises froze the credit markets, sent our economy into a tailspin, and wiped out trillions in personal wealth. Nearly 600,000 Americans lost their jobs in January of this year alone, and 3.6 million Americans have lost their jobs since December of 2007. These numbers are staggering, and they are only going to get worse.

In the face of this crisis, the President called on the nation to heed the advice of the economists and pass his economic recovery plan. It is true, this is a very expensive plan that we will vote on again tomorrow, costing nearly \$800 billion over the next two years.

But the economy will lose far more value than that over the same period of time if we do not act. President Obama has said, and I agree, that doing nothing is not an option. Similarly, he has been honest by saying that he cannot promise that this plan alone will turn our economy around.

The plan we will approve tomorrow over the objections of my Republican colleagues is not a silver bullet. Alone, it will not right the wrecked ship that is our economy. However, along with a strong plan to unfreeze the credit markets and help homeowners afford their mortgages, this plan will help rescue the economy and put people back to work.

Unemployment will continue to rise in the near future no matter what we do. That is always the case in a recession. But if we enact this plan, the unemployment rate will not rise as fast. Fewer people will lose their jobs if we act now, and many more people will have economic opportunity ahead when the economy does recover.

Madam Speaker, it is regrettable that despite the evidence of the need to act, the other party has chosen as their response to America's problems to stay the course and just say "No." They are saying in effect, we will not help you. You are on your own.

They do this much like their predecessors did when they faced the Great Depression. The Republicans were wrong then and they are dead wrong now. And the American people should not for a minute be fooled into thinking otherwise.

If people will remember back to the days before President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a Democrat, rescued the economy from the grips of the Great Depression, President Herbert Hoover looked into the economic abyss and said, don't worry.

For 75 years, Republicans have carried the sad mantle of Hooverism because of their obliviousness to the severity of the coming Depression of the 1930s and the need for government action.

Today, as in the 1920s, Republicans are trying to frame Democrats as wasteful spending interventionists and themselves as guardians of the U.S. Treasury and the private sector.

Not only are they misleading the public and hiding their own record of deficit spending, they are severely misreading the public mood for bold action.

My Republican colleagues, for reasons of antiquated ideology and partisan opportunism,

have failed to appreciate the urgency of the situation.

I encourage my colleagues to dust off the book, *Crisis of the Old Order*, historian Arthur Schlesinger's study of the failures of Hoover leading up to the election of 1932. It is instructive of the mistakes Hoover made then and points to the grave errors the Republicans are making today.

When the country called out for action, the President Obama answered, the Republicans said "No," as reflected by Minority JOHN BOEHNER's instructions to his colleagues to oppose the bill, even as President Obama came to the Capitol to extend his hand and urge their cooperation.

The Minority Whip, ERIC CANTOR of Virginia, said the "no" was going to be the Republicans' strategy to the economic crisis. The Republican national spokesman of late, radio host Rush Limbaugh, added to the "No" strategy by asserting on air that he wanted President Obama to "fail."

From Schlesinger's book, we see that in 1931–32, as the economic crisis was worsening, President Hoover similarly was clueless. "Nobody is actually starving," he said. "The hoboes are better fed than they have ever been. One hobo in New York got 10 meals in one day."

Hoover shunned the idea of strong government action, as Obama is calling for today. "What the country needs is a big laugh," he said in 1932. "If someone could get off a good joke every 10 days, I think our troubles would be over."

In 1932, Hoover asked Will Rogers to think up a joke that would stop hoarding. He told Rudy Vallee, "If you can sing a song that would make people forget the Depression, I'll give you a medal."

And he told Christopher Morley, "Perhaps what this country needs is a good poem . . . Sometimes a great poem can do more than legislation."

Compare those comments to what Roosevelt said. "We need to correct, by drastic means if necessary, the faults in our economic system from which we now suffer . . . The country needs . . . and demands bold, persistent experimentation . . . Above all, try something."

Hoover declared he wanted "to solve great problems outside of Government action." For the federal government to act would undermine "the very basis of self-government."

The Depression, Hoover declared, cannot be solved "by legislative or executive pronouncement. Economic wounds must be healed by the action of the cells of the economic body." Again, suggesting the private sector in all circumstances needs to solve economic crises.

Republicans for generations have stood on the sidelines, and they are doing it again, when the country is calling for their assistance. Tragically, they are deaf to the needs of the American people, they remain locked in ideological indifference and partisan politics, taking as their model the failed Hooverism of the 1930s which let the nation slide into Depression while waiting for poems and songs instead of taking bold action.

They brought nothing but negativism and political posturing to the table when President Obama offered an opportunity to join in a bipartisan effort to rescue the nation.

Their actions are a tragedy. Fortunately, however, my Democratic colleagues in the

House and Senate, and a small number of courageous Senate Republicans, have joined President Obama's call to action and will this week answer the pleas from average Americans for help. We will act now, and we will continue to act until we have turned the economy around for the benefit of every American and our nation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHALFONT METHODIST CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Chalfont Methodist Church was founded in 1808 and is celebrating its 200th anniversary in Washington Township, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation was started by Mordecai Chalfant, a member of the society in Methodism in 1808 but did not have a church until 1811, and

Whereas, in June of 1970, when the East Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church decided to close the parish due to dwindling membership, the building was turned over to another congregation and scheduled to be demolished, the community came together to form the Chalfant Society, raising money to purchase the building and have it named to the National Register of Historic Buildings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Chalfont Methodist Church for two centuries of dedication and service to the Washington township community and their determination to save the church building and continue the good works of the parish.

HONORING BROTHERHOOD OF THE BADGE, INTERNATIONAL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the accomplishments of Brotherhood of the Badge, International based out of Fresno, California. In the organization's short history, its members have successfully completed two trips to Iraq and Afghanistan to deliver law enforcement equipment to the Iraqi Police Officers.

In November 2003, Mike Harris discovered a cause well worth his time and energy. After hearing about Iraqi civilian police and military forces who were without proper gear and equipment, protecting the American soldiers, Mr. Harris came to the realization that he had to find a way to help. He has been in law enforcement for over thirty years and was well aware of surplus and outdated equipment that every law enforcement agency had acquired over the years. This non-serviceable equipment is a burden to the agencies because it cannot be thrown away. To destroy it is extremely costly, and in previous years the old equipment has been found with criminals after the agencies had donated it to Mexican police.